



**Union County**  
**Technology,**  
**Engineering, Architecture,**  
**Mathematics and Science**  
**Charter School.**

# UC TEAMS Charter School and High School/College Leadership Academy

PATCO Newsletter

December 2010

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## SEASON'S GREETINGS



### UC TEAMS CANCER WALK HONORS FORMER CLASSMATE

Jeremy Walsh of the New Jersey Star Ledger wrote an article titled “Plainfield School Children Walk Against Cancer to Honor Classmate” in the October 27th edition. The article reported on the mile and a half fundraising walk to fight cancer. The students in grades k thru 10 walked from the school to Cedarbrook Park. This is the second year students have participated in the raising funds for cancer but this year the walk opened a more personal connection for many students. The year’s fundraising walk honored Adeobola Owoiya, a 12 year old boy who recently died from brain cancer. Adeobola was a student in Mrs. Mattison’s fourth grade class when he attended UC TEAMS Charter School two years ago. The UC TEAMS’ goal was to raise \$1,000 and donate part of the money to Adeobola Owoiya’s family and the rest to cancer research. Read the New Jersey Star Ledger’s article at [http://www.nj.com/news/local/index.ssf/2010/10/plainfield\\_schoolchildren\\_walk.html](http://www.nj.com/news/local/index.ssf/2010/10/plainfield_schoolchildren_walk.html)



**6 YEARS OF  
 EXCELLENCE &  
 COMMITMENT AT  
 THE UNION  
 COUNTY TEAMS  
 CHARTER SCHOOL.**

Photo by Alexandra Pais/New Jersey Local News Service

### *Principal's Message*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to inform you that I am retiring from my position as Principal of Union County TEAMS Charter School effective January 1, 2011. Beginning 2011, with much pride, I will have spent nearly forty years of my life as a professional educator. In my retirement I look forward to pursuing interests I have always wanted to develop but never had the time to do.

It is with much thought and deliberation that I have made the decision to retire at this time. After considering my professional achievements and personal goals and my continuing journey as an individual I believe that I have made the right decision. I have given UC TEAMS my best over the years and am proud of my accomplishments and you have contributed to so many of my successes, the students' successes and the school's successes throughout the five and one half years of my tenure here at UC TEAMS and I am grateful.

I love UC TEAMS and your children and you have done an amazing job supporting them and the school. As I reflect on the myriad of ways your dedication has been apparent I think of the food donations you've consistently made to ensure a successful annual Grandparents' Luncheon, our school wide Thanksgiving Day Celebration and of course, the memorable Presidential Inaugural Ball; to name a few. The time and energy you gave assisting the staff with Field Day activities, UC TEAMS Spirit Days, Readathons, Fall Fun Days, Book Fairs, Athletic Events and many many other special programs will always be remembered and appreciated.

Certainly I have been faced with many challenges over the past four decades while serving teachers, children and their families in the various positions as Classroom Teacher, Crisis Intervention Teacher, School Counselor, Chairperson of a high school Guidance Counseling Department, Assistant Director of Curriculum, Supervisor and Principal. However, I have always regarded each of these assignments as an opportunity and privilege. It has indeed been a privilege to have served as your Principal over the past five and a half years.

I am leaving one of the most important jobs one can have, educating children. I believe under my leadership and with the support of staff UC TEAMS has become a learning environment where your children are inspired to become lifelong learners and fulfill their potential as future leaders and scholars. I have enjoyed my work here at UC TEAMS, built very special relationships with many of you and your children and will forever cherish the times we've spent as the UC TEAMS family.

I will miss seeing the smiling faces of the wonderful children you send us, the warm loving hugs we exchange each morning and the many ways your children have inspired me to be the best principal I can.

Thank you for your support and kindness over these past five and one half years and know that I will forever remain connected to the UC TEAMS students.

Sincerely,

Sandra D. Harrison, Principal

## Ms. Carla Bell - School Counselor

### N.J. SEEDS Visit:

NJ SEEDS, located in Newark, NJ is a college preparatory program that prepares academically talented, financially limited youth for success at competitive secondary schools. On Tuesday, November 9, 2010 Pat Rametti from NJ SEEDS gave an overview of the Scholars Program to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Candidates for the Scholars Program must live in the state of New Jersey and be enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade when they complete the application. **The deadline date for applications is March 1, 2010.**

### High School Information Night:

On Wednesday, November 10, 2010 UC TEAMS held a very successful High School Information Night for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students as evidenced by the high parent/student turn out. The panel of private high schools represented at the program included: Bishop Ahr – Edison, NJ, St. Benedictine Academy-Elizabeth, NJ, Westbridge Academy-Bloomfield, NJ, Union Catholic –Scotch Plains, NJ, St. Benedict Prep.-Newark, NJ and NJ SEEDS.

## Ms. Carbajal—Spanish Teacher

## “YOU’VE GOT MAIL”

Students in the 9th & 10th grades will be participating in an email exchange in Spanish with students from around the United States and across the globe. They will be able to practice their Spanish in a real communicative context via the website [www.epals.com](http://www.epals.com). Through this site, teachers are able to find classes interested in email exchanges and then they are able to set-up and monitor these exchanges. Since the 9th & 10th graders have already learned how to introduce themselves, say their age, express likes and dislikes, describe their personalities, and ask basic questions in Spanish, this will be a perfect opportunity to put their skills into action. Students in Grades 3–8 will also participate in the letter or email exchanges in near future. Tiene correo electronic? Do you have email?



**Ms. Foster, School Nurse****MOBILE DENTIST VISIT**

We invited the Mobile Dentists/Smiles Program to our school on November 30, 2010. They brought their preventive dental care program to our school because we know how important good oral health is at UC TEAMS. The Mobile Dentists/Smiles program set-up a mini-dental office in our school and provide dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride treatments, x-rays and sealants (if needed) to our students. No child is ever turned away from the Smile Mobile Dentists because of financial need. Until next time, always brush your teeth twice a day, remember to floss and keep smiling.

**6th ANNUAL GRANDPARENTS' DAY**

On November 17th, UC TEAMS students honored the grandparents at the 6th Annual Grandparents' Day Luncheon. Eighth Graders planned a day of homage for the grandparents of UC TEAMS. What a day to remember! Students and grandparents were photographed together to create everlasting memories. Thank-you to everyone who helped to make this event a huge success. A special thank-you to Mrs. Leo-Dalmau for the beautiful decorations and lovely gift baskets. Gift baskets were given to the eldest and youngest grandparents and the grandparent who traveled the furthest. One was also given to the grandparent who has attended all the six grandparent luncheons held at UC TEAMS from 2005—2010.

**A THANK YOU NOTE TO PARENTS**

The annual Thanksgiving Luncheon was a success thanks to the contributions by parents and guardians. The teachers and staff at UC TEAMS want to express their gratitude to all the parents and guardians who contributed the delicious items for the meal, utensils, and table decorations. A special note of thanks to the parents and guardians who were able to share their time to assist before, during and after the meal. UC TEAMS continued their practice of community involvement by donating the remaining food to the residents of the Plainfield YMCA.



Charlene Jones, High School Geometry/Finance  
Jr. Achievement **FINANCE PARK**<sup>®</sup> Live Budget Simulation

On November 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 2010, UC T.E.A.M.S. High School students participated in a LIVE Budget simulation in FINANCE!

Grade 9 & 10 students put into action all they have learned in Finance class by making important spending decisions, while maintaining a balanced budget. Using the *FinancePark*<sup>®</sup> on-line program, students were individually assigned a life situation that included a job, an income, and a family. Then students completed 4 sessions that included calculating their net monthly income, monthly expenses in nearly 20 categories (calculating their rent, mortgage, transportation, food, healthcare, taxes, insurance, and more monthly living needs), to eventually create a balanced budget. Students also made important savings and investment decisions for their families.

**Objectives:**

Students created a typical family budget using hypothetical life situations

Using percentages to calculate minimum and maximum spending allowances, students made vital spending decisions for their families

Students evaluated stock holdings and computed their stock portfolio values to complete the Personal Investment Report

Philanthropic decisions were made by students to give to charity and donate to their community

Students determined how much savings they needed for their family's future needs.

**HONORABLE MENTION:**

At the end of the session, students received a printout listing all of their transactions made so they were able to determine whether they successfully pieced together the budget puzzle.

These students ranked highest during the site visits with representatives from Jr. Achievement, Johnson & Johnson, and Capital One Bank volunteering support:

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade** - Che Winter (High Scorer), Richard Johnson (High Scorer), Destiny Lee (High Scorer), Anthony Lewis (High Scorer), Chinedum Ehiobuche, Ebon Cress, Tony Gaitan, Lionel Leach, Tonzza Lambert, Tamari Baker, Jazmine Ortega, Danielle Tucker, Courtney Johnson, Anesia Brown and Kathy Frazier.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade** - Dontel Carmen (1<sup>st</sup> Place), Justin Foster (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Yasmine Franklin (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Deja Bellinger, Jasmine Boone, Shaquille Copeland, Derrick Robinson, Adenike Majoyeogbe, Derrick Robinson, and Shanita Seymore-Davis, Bianca Greene, and Crystal Attidore.

This *FinancePark*<sup>®</sup> pilot program is a nation-wide initiative of Jr. Achievement which was funded by Capital One Bank; coordinated by Ms. C. Jones, Teacher of Business Education and Mathematics; also taught by Mr. Z. Ugwuneri.

Mr. E. Griffin, P.E. & Health Teacher

HEALTH CORNER

### November is National Diabetes Awareness Month!!!!

#### **What is Diabetes?**

Diabetes mellitus is the name given to a group of conditions in which the body cannot adequately control the amount of glucose (**a form of sugar**) in the blood.

#### **There are three main types of diabetes:**

**Diabetes Type 1** - You produce no insulin at all.

**Diabetes Type 2** - You don't produce enough insulin, or your insulin is not working properly.

**Gestational Diabetes** - You develop diabetes just during your pregnancy.

High blood levels of glucose can cause several problems, including:

Blurry vision

Excessive thirst

Fatigue

Frequent urination

Hunger

Weight loss

However, because type 2 diabetes develops slowly, some people with high blood sugar experience no symptoms at all.

Symptoms of type 1 diabetes:

Fatigue

Increased thirst

Increased urination

Nausea

Vomiting

Weight loss in spite of increased appetite

Patients with type 1 diabetes usually develop symptoms over a short period of time. The condition is often diagnosed in an emergency setting.

Symptoms of type 2 diabetes:

Blurred vision

Fatigue

Increased appetite

Increased thirst

Increased urination

### A Healthy Lifestyle is the best treatment for Diabetes

You can **prevent or delay** the onset of type 2 diabetes through a healthy lifestyle. Change your diet, increase your level of **physical activity (exercise 4 times a week)**, maintain a healthy weight...with these positive steps, you can stay healthier longer and reduce your risk of diabetes.



## High School Timeline

Use this timeline to help you make sure you're accomplishing everything you need to accomplish on time.

### Ninth Grade

Explore your interests and possible careers. Meet with School Counselor about colleges and careers	Enroll in college-preparatory or technology-preparatory courses in your high school	Get off to a good start with grades. Ninth grade grades are included in your final GPA and class ranking	Investigate summer enrichment programs (e.g. Upward Bound)
Get involved in extracurricular activities and community service projects	Talk to your parents about planning for college expenses. Continue or begin a savings plan	Tour a nearby college and attend college fairs	Use the internet and libraries to research college information. Collegeboard.com is a great resource!

### Tenth Grade

Take the PSAT test and discuss your results with the School Counselor	Become familiar with general college entrance requirements	Work toward leadership positions in school, community, & other volunteer activities	Read as many books as possible from a comprehensive reading list
Take Geometry, Biology and a second year of a foreign language.	Begin zeroing in on the type of college you would prefer (two-year or four-year, small or large, rural or urban)	Visit a few more college campuses. Read literature you receive from colleges	Attend college fairs, college club meetings, and keep your grades up!

### Eleventh Grade

Register for the SAT test and National Merit Scholarships. Discuss your PSAT score with your counselor	Collect information about college admissions & requirements, tuition and fees, financial aid, student activities, course offerings and faculty ratios	Begin comparing the schools and factors that you consider most important and narrow down your college choices	Set up a filing system with individual folders for each college's correspondence and printed materials
Develop a financial aid application plan, including a list of the aid sources, requirements and timetable for meeting filing deadlines	Discuss your college essay with your guidance counselor or Language Arts teacher!	Consider whom you will ask to write recommendations for you. Think about asking teachers who know you well and who will write positive letters about you	Request applications from schools you're interested in by mail, phone call, or via the Internet

### Twelfth Grade

Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">http://www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>	Give recommendation forms to teachers you have chosen. Be sure to discuss your goals and ambitions with them first	Register and take the ACT and/or SAT again if you'd like to improve your score	Mail or send any college applications for early-decision by November 1
Watch your mail for acceptance notifications from colleges between March and April	Compare financial aid packages from the colleges and universities that have accepted you!	Make your final choice and notify all schools of your intention. Request your final transcript to be sent to your chosen college/university	Complete follow-up paperwork for the college of your choice (scheduling, orientation, housing)

**Congratulations! You are about to begin the greatest adventure of your life. Good luck.**

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TOUR RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

On Monday, November 1, 2010, UC T.E.A.M.S. High School Students (Grade 9-10) visited The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in Pomona, NJ. As part of their High School experience at UC T.E.A.M.S., students are being exposed to several institutions of higher learning through visits to campuses in New Jersey and in the tri-state area in the future. College/Campus tours have valuable benefits for our students that include seeing, hearing, and discussing first-hand what colleges have to offer and how they can navigate the application process. It is critical for our high school students to initiate planning for college and the requirements of acceptance. The students were very surprised to learn the Stockton was ranked among the Best Universities in the North (2011) by *U.S. News and World Report* for four consecutive years; it is considered one of the top-15 public institutions (#13). This College Tour Experience met the **New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards (NJCCCS) # 9.1 – Career Awareness and Planning**

### The Learning Objectives included:

1. **A guided campus tour**, provided by a student ambassador of the campus, that includes visiting the academic buildings, residence halls, cafeteria, student union, library, campus bookstore, athletic facilities, administrative offices, campus facilities, and the surrounding area.
2. **An information session**, provided by an admissions officer, which allows your child to learn about admissions requirements, financial aid options, and academic requirements for acceptance. These sessions also allow students to ask questions and receive application materials.
3. **Individual experiences** allowed students to experience the campus for their own personal needs to meet current students, experience campus dining, visit a particular school or department, academic facility, bookstore, or residential building.

Thanks to Ms. C. Jones and Ms. C. Gayle for coordinating this trip and working with our students to ensure they take the necessary college planning steps toward a successful future!



### Housekeeping Reminders

- Check your child's R.A.M.S binder daily for notices, calendars, and parent/teacher correspondence etc.
- Any student arriving to school after 8:15am must enter the building through the Liberty St. entrance.
- Remind your child to bring at least 2-3 **sharpened pencils** to school daily.
- Breakfast **ENDS** at **8:00am sharp!** Please make sure your child arrives before this time if he/she is eating breakfast. Students arriving after this time will not be served.
- Uniform Reminders—Boots of any kind are **NOT** permitted. During inclement weather students must change into shoes or sneakers when wearing boots.

### 30 Book Reading Campaign

We would like for each and every student to gain and maintain a love for reading. Reading opens the doors to opportunity. Please encourage your child to read at home. At the end of each marking period, students who reach the set reading goal and requirements established by the Homeroom/Language Arts Literacy Teacher will receive a reward. Rewards will be given at the end of the marking period awards assembly. We want EVERYONE to be included! So make sure your child is not left out. **READ!!!READ!!!READ!!!!** AIM FOR 30 or more books.



Last year Le'Anthony Howell and Izayah Stokes, 3rd graders, set a new record for books read in one year at UC TEAMS Charter School.



# PATCO's CORNER

BUTTER BRAID Fundraiser began on November 15th and runs until **December 2nd**.

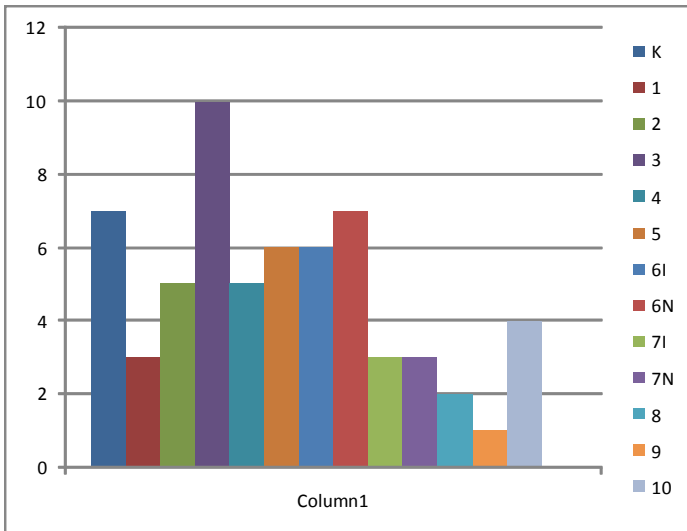


There are four flavors of Butter Braid; cherry, apple, almond, and cream cheese. We offered parents a sample taste at Open School Night. Many parents were excited about the Butter Braid's taste. Each loaf costs \$12. PATCO's goal is at least two orders from



each UC TEAMS household. The orders will arrived at the school by December 17th, just in time for the Christmas meal. Each loaf serves over ten people.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



Thank you to all the parents who have signed up as PATCO members. As of the printing of this newsletter, 40 PATCO applications were completed covering 57 UC TEAMS students. This number amounts to 22% of our students. **PATCO is still focused on having 100% participation by parents.** Being a part of PATCO means you are a part of the New Jersey Parent Teacher Association and the National Parent Teacher Association. There are several merchant discounts and benefits connected with the PTA membership. PATCO members will receive their PTA membership cards in a few weeks, this will allow them to access available discounts through the PTA website [www.njpta.org](http://www.njpta.org).

Congratulations  
to  
Mrs. Adelantar's  
Third Grade Class

# PATCO's CORNER

## PATCO's activity log

**HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT**— PATCO's former president Bruce Williams attended the event and shared his experiences of applying to high school. Mr. Williams' daughter Andrea graduated from UC TEAMS last year. He informed parents of impending deadlines and the requirements needed by VOC TECH.

**GRANDPARENTS' DAY**— Mrs. Leo-Dalmau, mother of, prepared the gift baskets donated by PATCO. Two baskets were raffled off, one was given to the eldest grandparent and

another was given to the youngest grandparent.

**PATCO BOOK CLUB** -- A few members met to discuss "The Other Wes Moore" by Wes Moore. The group will schedule another meeting date to continue their discussion. Remember to visit marketplace on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) if you are interested in purchasing books at a lower price and have them mailed directly to you.

**WORKSHOP on HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE** — PATCO presented one of many parent workshop at September's PATCO meeting. The workshop offered parents suggestions on getting homework done in a less stressful manner. It also provided parents with resources to assist their students. Email [patcopresident@yahoo.com](mailto:patcopresident@yahoo.com) if you are interested in viewing the powerpoint. Look out for other interesting workshops.

**PATCO MEETS ON THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 16th @ 6:30—8:00pm**

## OPINION / EDITORIAL

I have been extremely slack on my Box Tops commitment. I understand that each ticket gets our school one dime. I realize that from each trip the supermarket, there are at least 5 box tops to cut. I haven't been doing it. I, WE, need to get serious about this. One school was able to get over \$5,000 dollars just from box tops. That's a lot of money we



as UC TEAMS families are throwing into the trash. I have turned over the duty of collecting box tops to my children. We've got to get serious about this. Put an envelope labeled BOX TOPS on your fridge, front and center. At the end of each month, with 2 box tops or 10 box tops, seal it and send it to school. Don't be like me. **Let's change our habits and bring the "change" to our school's bank account. SERIOUSLY...STOP THE WASTE!**

## THE GIVING TREE

As Christmas approaches, we must remember the children who are in less fortunate situations. This year we are going to run a school wide gift donation drive. We are asking each family to donate one gift, any gift worth up to \$10. Do not wrap the gift, the original packaging is fine. Mrs. Robinson will spearhead this activity. The items will be turned over to the Plainfield Fire Department. Let's begin contributing early before the stress of our family gifts overwhelms us and decreases our holiday spirit.

